

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1-10 and 12-22 are now pending in the present application, claim 11 having been cancelled by the present Amendment. Claims 1, 2, 10-12 and 16-22 were rejected. Claim 3-9 and 13-15 were previously withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 16-18 and 20-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by **Sukegawa et al.** (US 2003/0039380).

Claim 1 has been amended to recite

“wherein: the object possesses a line pattern;

a number of lines or a total length of lines to be shot by said shooting unit is defined as the expected shooting state information; and

said guide determining unit determines that the object is not required to be guided, if the number of lines or the total length of lines, which is detected from an image of the object shot by said shooting unit, is larger than the number of lines or the total length of lines, which is defined as the expected shooting state information.”

Claims 20-22 have been amended similarly.

It is respectfully submitted that **Sukegawa et al.** does not disclose or suggest at least the following highlighted features of amended claim 1:

the object possesses a line pattern;
a number of lines or a total length of lines to be shot by said shooting unit is defined as the expected shooting state information; and

said guide determining unit determines that the object is not required to be guided, if the number of lines or the total length of lines, which is detected from the image of the object shot by said shooting unit, is larger than the number or the total length of lines, which is defined as the expected shooting state information.

Moreover, **Sukegawa et al.** does not disclose or suggest the similar features added to independent claims 20-22.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. It is respectfully submitted that **Sukegawa et al.** does not disclose or suggest each and every element recited in independent claims 1 and 20-22. Accordingly, it is submitted that each of claims 1, 2, 10, 16-18 and 20-22 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 10, 16-18 and 20-22 under §102 are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Sukegawa et al.** in view of **Hoshuyama et al.** (USP 6,906,744).

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Sukegawa et al.** in view of **Shimazaki et al.** (US 2002/0198634).

Neither **Hoshuyuma et al.** nor **Shimazaki et al.** alleviate any of the above-noted deficiencies of **Sukegawa et al.** Accordingly, claims 12 and 19 respectively patentably distinguish over the combination of **Sukegawa et al.** and **Hoshuyuma et al.** and the combination of **Sukegawa et al.** and **Shimazaki et al.** for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1 by virtue of their dependency thereon.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

Application No.: 10/784,776
Art Unit: 2622

Submission of Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.114
Attorney Docket No.: 042090

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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